

--4. [AMENDED] A labelling composition as claimed in claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 3], wherein the composition is present in a freeze-dried state.--

--5. [AMENDED] A method of making labelled probes for a nucleic acid template, which method comprises incubating the nucleic acid template under chain extension conditions with the labelling composition of claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 4].--

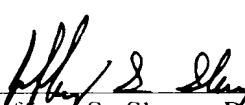
REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are made to eliminate various multiple dependencies and to place the claims in condition for allowance. An early notice of allowance is hereby solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any matter of form or substance, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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